

CUSTOMER PROFILE



DATC ESTABLISHES A VISION FOR INNOVATION AND SUCCESS

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The Davis Applied Technology College (DATC) is a public institution located 20 minutes north of Salt Lake City. The college is regionally and nationally recognized for its hands-on, competency-based technical education. DATC currently offers 30 programs in the Schools of Business and Technology, Construction, Health, Business and Information Technology, Manufacturing and Service, and Transportation. Over 300 industry professionals make up program advisory committees, which provide extensive review of the application alignment with industry need. The quality of DATC's training, its affordable tuition, flexible scheduling, and job placements have resulted in more than 7,500 students enrolling in DATC in 2014.

DATC boasts 84% completion and 87% placement rates with over 2,300 credentials earned and almost 1,400 students participating in externship and clinical opportunities. The DATC has partnered with, and serves as, the western U.S. training site for Volvo/Mack Truck Division, Polaris Corporation, Okuma America Corporation, Lincoln Electric Corporations, and Iasis Corporation/Davis Hospital and Medical Center.



Greg Scherer
Director of IT

The college serves both secondary and post-secondary students with extensive articulation agreements that allow students to easily move between educational institutions to continue their education. Funding for a Plastics Injection Molding Program was initiated last year. The development of a robust Veterans' Center, to address the needs of dedicated Veterans and their dependents, is now functional.



A REQUIREMENT TO AUTOMATE

Greg Scherer is the Director of IT, responsible for telecommunications, its network, all desktop equipment and developing applications to create app-specific solutions. An IT department of six supports 1200-1400 devices with multiple users per machine, as well as 20 Computer Labs in different programs. With cabinets full of paper forms, ranging from mileage reimbursement and leave requests to conflict of interest disclosures, Scherer's group was looking to be innovative — and to eliminate that cabinet.

three companies. Over a period of six months, representatives from IT, Purchasing, and Finance, as well as representatives from every division, participated in demos and discussions. “We wanted to be totally transparent and up front in terms of what we were trying to accomplish,” he stated. One proposal included building the system in SharePoint. “That was a big issue for me. We could see the capabilities of BP Logix Process Director, while with SharePoint we had to envision what it could do. The whole workflow and storage process was being proposed on the basis of build as you go,” remarked Scherer.



As an organization, DATC has, as a goal, to continue improving, whether talking about delivering programs to students or services to support staff. Scherer looked at the processes that could and would be improved by automation. He then reviewed the requirements for the forms themselves and the history behind the forms. That led Scherer to thinking further about workflows. “I could see the potential to save money, time and effort developing forms and workflows,” commented Scherer.

Establishing their requirements, scope and criteria, Scherer's team initiated an RFP. More than a dozen vendors responded, with Scherer then short-listing

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IMPRESSIVE INITIAL RESULTS

The President's Council (consisting of the CIO, CFO, CEO, VP of Instruction and VP of Operations) recognized and pre-approved the requirement for a workflow and forms-based system. Subsequently they approved the selection of BP Logix Process Director. Scherer's team then licensed Process Director — and began to develop forms and workflows. Users and IT alike liked the business rules, the Microsoft Word plug in — and the simplicity of the forms and the controls.

As part of DATC's contract, Scherer built in consulting time upfront to jump start its development. "We needed assistance with two forms, so it worked out really well. We recorded our training sessions and developed the forms concurrently. We had the first two forms and our first processes went live within 30 days," he recalled.

As a result of that initial success, the processes across departments are growing exponentially. In student services alone there are already 17 completed processes with five in the queue. In Finance there are seven processes — from budget transfer, mileage reimbursement and purchase card logs to vendor registration and travel authorization. "Previously, travel authorization was cumbersome and complex. Our new system saves so much time in the approval process that it's difficult to remember how we handled it previously," Scherer observed.

In HR and IT the progress is equally impressive. In HR, DATC has a catastrophic 'sick bank' request, conflict of interest disclosure, fitness center application, leave requests, personnel action notices, W-4's and three more forms in the queue. Instructional system design and IT are each developing and implementing multiple processes.

VALIDATING THE VISION

Across the campus, DATC users appreciate being able to access and extract the data they need. In merging two manual processes into one, data integration is even more important. In the next phase DATC is looking to integrate Process Director with SharePoint.

Scherer and his team performed its due diligence to find the right technology — and to cost justify the expense to the President's Council.

"We wanted to continue to innovate and get better — and that has been validated. It's the time that we are saving and knowing where our business processes and workflow are without having to chase them down that's invaluable. What used to take days is taking hours — what used to take weeks is taking days," Scherer observed.

"Most importantly, when people catch the vision they see what can happen with Process Director," he concluded.

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